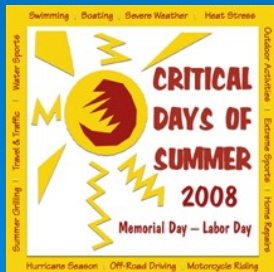


Waterskiing

Water-skiing is an exciting and challenging sport. However, like all "fast-action" sports that are fun, it possesses an element of risk.

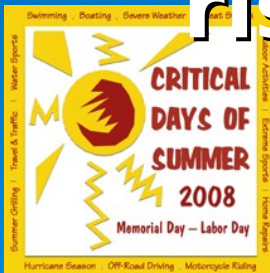
Many skiers and boaters are not aware of the potential hazards of water-skiing and as a result, are hurt or even killed pursuing this recreational sport. Attention to hazards in the area where you are skiing is critical due to the ever-growing number of boats out on the water.



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The Ski Area

Each boat should be able to maintain a 200 foot wide "ski corridor" (100 feet on either side of the boat). The entire "skiing course" should be at least 2,000 - 3,000 feet long to avoid constant turning and risky maneuvering.

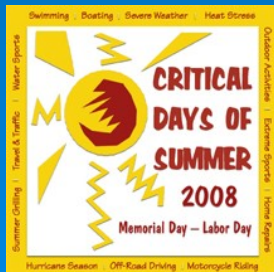


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The Ski Area

A minimum depth of five to six feet of obstacle-free water is suggested for safe skiing to:

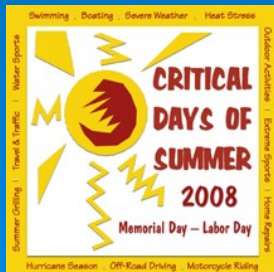
- Keep the skis from dragging bottom during starts.***
- Allow for a margin of safety against hitting bottom or submerged obstacles during a fall.***



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Obstructions

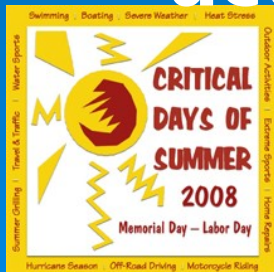
- Serious injuries can result from hitting fixed objects such as docks, pilings or stumps.
- Many areas with obstacles are marked by warning buoys or signs, but it is up to the boat operator, observer and skier to be alert to any potential hazards in the skiing area.



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Obstructions

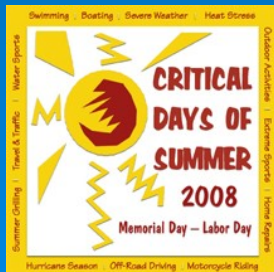
- **Avoid solid objects when landing.**
- **Ski only in areas you are familiar with.**
- **Consult charts of the area, ask other skiers who possess "local knowledge", and personally drive through the course before you actually ski it.**



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Weather Conditions

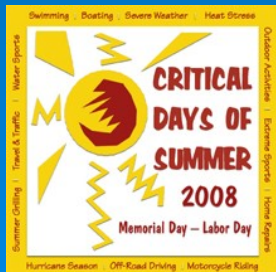
➤ As a rule, avoid skiing when the water is rough due to high winds. Choppy water demands a greater skill level and causes the skier to fatigue more quickly, often because the tow boat cannot maintain a constant speed.



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Weather Conditions, cont.

- Skiing in the rain is not recommended because of the loss of visibility experienced by the boat operator.
- When skiing in cooler weather, be aware of the effects of hypothermia. Loss of body heat leads to a reduction in coordination and judgment. The use of wet suits can ward off the chilling effects of wind and cold water.



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Safety Tips

- Don't take unnecessary risks while water-skiing. The following tips will help you safely enjoy this thrilling sport:
- Always have an observer in the boat. This is a legal requirement in many states. The boat driver cannot watch the skier and operate the boat safely at the same time.
- Never ski in rough water. High waves or a choppy sea will prevent the tow boat from maintaining a steady course and speed to say nothing of the impact on the skis themselves.



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Safety Tips, cont.

- Always wear a Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) designed for water skiing. Ski belts are NOT recommended and in some cases are illegal to use in some states. Your approved PFD will help keep you afloat.
- Stay well clear of congested areas and obstructions. Water-skiing requires a lot of open area.



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Safety Tips, cont.

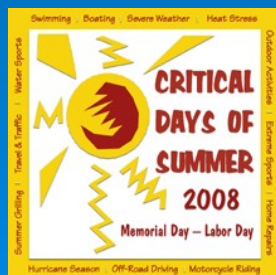
- Don't spray or "buzz" swimmers, boats, or other skiers. Such stunts are dangerous, discourteous, and could cause an unintentional collision.
- Never water-ski while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Such activity is extremely dangerous because of the impairment to your judgment and ability to respond. A recent study conducted with expert skiers who were deliberately intoxicated indicated that even their ability to ski was dramatically reduced.



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Safety Tips, cont.

- Use hand signals between the skier and observer. Agree before you start what each signal means so there is no confusion at a critical moment.
- Never ski after dark. It is hazardous and illegal. Any boat traveling fast enough to tow a skier is traveling too fast to navigate safely at night.



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